

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 16, 1984

Executive Registry

04- 2259/1

Chrono

The Honorable Kenneth Adelman  
Director  
Arms Control and Disarmament Agency  
Department of State  
320 21st Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20451

Dear Mr. Adelman:

I have noted the following statement in the Defense Department's  
Soviet Military Power for 1984:

"As of March 1984, the [Soviet] force numbered 64  
submarines fitted with some 936 nuclear-tipped  
missiles. Two of these submarines do not count toward  
the 62 SSBN limit established by SALT I."

Leaving aside the fact that the SALT I Interim Agreement and its  
Protocol expired in 1977 and was not jointly extended  
indefinitely, I am puzzled by the exclusion of two Soviet  
submarines from counting above the 62 SSBN limit. Presumably  
these two submarines are test bed submarines for the SS-N-17 and  
SS-NX-23. But the 12 SS-N-17 count in the 936 SALT I accountab  
SLBMs, and the tubes on the SS-NX-23 test bed presumably are also  
SALT I accountable.

My question relates to how the two Soviet submarines are  
excluded. I am unaware of anything in the SALT I Interim  
Agreement, its protocol, or its Agreed Statements or Common  
Understandings which exclude test bed submarines from counting in  
the 62 total SSBNs allowed. How did these two SSBNs come to be  
excluded? Was this exclusion ever reported to Congress?  
Further, have the Soviets in fact dismantled all the missile  
tubes and missile bays on their Y class submarines being  
converted to attack or cruise missile carriers?

Thank you for your prompt answers to my questions.

Sincerely,

Jim M. Clure

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